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**TUESDAY:**

**JEAN PAUL**  
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6:30 - 8:30pm

**WEDNESDAY:**

**EDDIE KROON**  
SINGER 4:00 - 6:00pm

**MAILLEYN ALVARADO**  
VIOLINIST 6:30 - 8:30pm

**KARAOKE 9:00 - 11:00pm**

**THURSDAY:**

**MARRYBELL MADURO**  
SINGER  
6:30 - 8:30pm

**FRIDAY:**

**RICKY THOMAS**  
GUITARIST  
7:00 - 9:00pm

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# Trump gives Elon Musk an Oval Office sendoff, crediting him with 'colossal change'

By CHRIS MEGERIAN  
Associated Press

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — President Donald Trump bid farewell to Elon Musk in the Oval Office on Friday, providing a cordial conclusion to a tumultuous tenure for the billionaire entrepreneur. Musk is leaving his position spearheading the Department of Government Efficiency, and he'll be rededicating himself to running his businesses, including electric automaker Tesla, rocket company SpaceX and social media platform X.

Trump credited Musk with "a colossal change in the old ways of doing business in Washington" and said some of his staff would remain in the administration. Musk, who wore all black, including a T-shirt that said "The Dogefather," nodded along as the president listed contracts that had been cut under his watch. "I think the DOGE team is doing an incredible job," Musk said after accepting a ceremonial key from the president. "They're going to continue to be doing an incredible job."

He left a searing mark on the federal bureaucracy, including thousands of em-



President Donald Trump speaks during a news conference with Elon Musk in the Oval Office of the White House, Friday, May 30, 2025, in Washington.

Associated Press

ployees who were fired or pushed out. Some government functions were eviscerated, such as the U.S. Agency for International Development, which had provided a lifeline for impoverished people around the world. Boston University researchers estimate that hundreds of thousands of people have already died as a result of the cuts.

The State Department responded by saying most

of USAID's programs on HIV, known as PEPFAR, remained operational. However, the statement did not address any of the other cuts while calling on "other nations to dramatically increase their humanitarian efforts."

Despite the upheaval, Musk also fell far short of his goals. After promising to cut \$1 trillion or even \$2 trillion in federal spending, he lowered expectations to

only \$150 billion in the current fiscal year.

It's unclear whether that target has been hit. The DOGE website tallies \$175 billion in savings, but its information has been riddled with errors and embellishments.

Musk had a bruise next to his right eye in the Oval Office, which he explained by saying he had been "horsing around" with his young son. "I said, go ahead

punch me in the face," he said. "And he did."

Trump said Musk had led the "most sweeping and consequential government reform effort in generations." He suggested that Musk is "really not leaving" and "he's going to be back and forth" to keep tabs on what's happening in the administration.

There were signs, however, that attention was already shifting away from Musk, who once appeared omnipresent in Washington. He often stood quietly next to Trump as reporters peppered him with questions about the French president (he's great), Joe Biden's autopen (it's bad) and the potential for pardoning Sean "Diddy" Combs (he'll look at the facts).

When Musk was asked about the impact of tariffs on Tesla something Musk has expressed concerns about in the past Trump jumped in to answer.

Musk, the world's richest person, recently said he would reduce his political donations. He was Trump's top donor in last year's presidential campaign.

Trump appeared eager to end Musk's service on a high note. □

# U.S. government is investigating messages impersonating Trump's chief of staff, Susie Wiles

By MICHELLE L. PRICE  
Associated Press

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — The

government is investigating after elected officials, business executives and other

prominent figures in recent weeks received messages from someone impersonating Susie Wiles, President Donald Trump's chief of staff.

A White House official confirmed the investigation Friday and said the White House takes cybersecurity of its staff seriously. The official was not authorized to discuss the matter publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity.

The Wall Street Journal reported Thursday that senators, governors, business leaders and others began receiving text messages and phone calls from someone who seemed to

have gained access to the contacts in Wiles' personal cellphone. The messages and calls were not coming from Wiles number, the newspaper reported.

Some of those who received calls heard a voice that sounded like Wiles that may have been generated by artificial intelligence, according to the report. Some received text messages that they initially thought were official White House requests but some people reported the messages did not sound like Wiles.

The FBI warned in a public service announcement this month of a "malicious text and voice messaging cam-

paign" in which unidentified "malicious actors" have been impersonating senior U.S. government officials.

The scheme, according to the FBI, has relied on text messages and AI-generated voice messages that purport to come from a senior U.S. official and that aim to dupe other government officials as well as the victim's associates and contacts.

"Safeguarding our administration officials' ability to securely communicate to accomplish the president's mission is a top priority," FBI Director Kash Patel said in a statement Friday. □



White House Chief of Staff Susie Wiles listens during a cabinet meeting at the White House, April 30, 2025, in Washington.

Associated Press



# CDC removes language that says healthy kids and pregnant women should get COVID shots

By MIKE STOBBE  
AP Medical Writer

**NEW YORK (AP)** — The nation's top public health agency posted new recommendations that say healthy children and pregnant women may get COVID-19 vaccinations, removing stronger language that those groups should get the shots.

The change comes days after U.S. Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. announced that COVID-19 vaccines will no longer be recommended for healthy children and pregnant women.

But the updated guidance on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's website sends a more nuanced message, saying shots "may" be given to those groups.

"The announcement from earlier this week sounded like CDC was going to fully withdraw any statement that could be construed as a recommendation for these vaccines in these populations," said Jason Schwartz, a Yale University health policy researcher.



A sign marks the entrance to the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in Atlanta, on Oct. 8, 2013.

"It's not as bad as it could have been," Kennedy announced the coming changes in a 58-second video posted on the social media site X on Tuesday. No one from the CDC was in the video, and CDC officials have referred questions about the announcement to Kennedy and the

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. On Thursday, the CDC updated its website. The agency said that shots may be given to children ages 6 months to 17 years who do not have moderate or severe problems with their immune systems. Instead of recommending the shots,

the CDC now says parents may decide to get their children vaccinated in consultation with a doctor. A subtle update to a CDC page on the adult immunization schedule indicated a similar change for the recommendation for pregnant women, excluding them from the routine rec-

ommendation made for other adults.

"The old COVID-19 vaccine recommendations for healthy children under 18 and for pregnant women have been removed from the CDC vaccine schedule," a HHS spokesperson said in a statement. "The CDC and HHS encourage individuals to talk with their healthcare provider about any personal medical decision."

That kind of recommendation, known as shared decision-making, still means health insurers must pay for the vaccinations, according to the CDC. However, experts say vaccination rates tend to be lower when health authorities use that language and doctors are less emphatic with patients about getting shots.

Childhood vaccination rates for COVID-19 are already low just 13% of children and 23% of adults have received the 2024-25 COVID-19 vaccine, according to CDC data. Talk of changing the recommendations has been brewing. □

Associated Press

## Biden says he's 'feeling good' in first remarks after cancer diagnosis announced

**NEW CASTLE, Del. (AP)** —

Former President Joe Biden delivered the first remarks since he announced he had an aggressive form of prostate cancer Friday, speaking in a steady voice during a somber Memorial Day gathering and later smiling and saying he's "feeling good."

Biden spoke at an annual gathering marking Memorial Day at Veterans Memorial Park in his home state of Delaware, not far from his home in Wilmington. The event coincided with the 10th anniversary of his son Beau's death. It also comes amid renewed questions about Biden's mental and physical health after the recent publication of a book about his fitness for office.

Speaking to reporters after the Memorial Day event, he said he was already undergoing treatment for cancer, which entailed taking a pill, he said.

"The expectation is we're gonna be able to beat this," he said. "I'm feeling good."

Biden dropped his reelection bid in July 2024 after a disastrous debate against Donald Trump, after which those in his party questioned whether he could continue as the party's nominee. Questions about his decline and how the White House staff reacted to it are at the center of a recent book by Jake Tapper and Alex Thompson, which has renewed the debate.

Asked Friday if he had a

response to recent questions about his mental and physical health, he smiled and engaged with the reporter.

"You can see I'm mentally incompetent and I can walk and I can beat the hell out of both of them," he said.

In response to Democrats who question whether he should have initially run for reelection at all, he said: "Why didn't they run against me then? Because I'd have beaten them." During his formal remarks, he called upon the group to remember the sacrifices of those lost in battle, whose echoes he said can still be heard.

He also spoke of his son, Beau, who died at 46 of brain cancer. A twice-

elected state attorney general, Beau Biden was considering a run for governor, and his death deeply affected the elder Biden. "This day is the 10th anniversary of the loss of my

son Beau, who spent a year in Iraq, and, to be honest, it's a hard day," the former president said. "Being with all of you, quite frankly, makes things a little bit easier, it really does. □



President Joe Biden speaks to the media in North Charleston, S.C., Jan. 19, 2025.

Associated Press



# Army Corps analysis finds Great Lakes pipeline tunnel would have sweeping environmental impacts

By TODD RICHMOND  
Associated Press

Building an underground tunnel for an aging Enbridge oil pipeline that stretches across a Great Lakes channel could destroy wetlands and harm bat habitats but would eliminate the chances of a boat anchor rupturing the line and causing a catastrophic spill, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers said Friday in a long-awaited draft analysis of the proposed project's environmental impacts.

The analysis moves the corps a step closer to approving the tunnel for Line 5 in the Straits of Mackinac. The tunnel was proposed in 2018 at a cost of \$500 million but has been bogged down by legal challenges. The corps fast-tracked the project in April after President Donald Trump ordered federal agencies in January to identify energy projects for expedited emergency permitting. A final environmental assessment is expected by autumn, with a permitting decision to follow later this year. The agency initially planned to issue a permitting decision in early 2026. With that permit in hand, Enbridge would only need permission from the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy before it could begin constructing the tunnel. That's far from a given, though.

Environmentalists have been pressuring the state to deny the permit. Meanwhile, Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel and Gov. Gretchen Whitmer are trying to win court rulings that would force Enbridge to remove the existing pipeline from the straits for good.

Construction could have major short-term, long-term impacts

The analysis notes that the tunnel would eliminate the risk of a boat anchor rupturing the pipeline and causing a spill in the straits, a key concern for environmentalists. But the construction would have sweeping ef-



In this photo shot from a television screen provided by the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy in June 2020, shows damage to anchor support EP-17-1 on the east leg of the Enbridge Line 5 pipeline within the Straits of Mackinac in Mich. Associated Press

fects on everything from recreation to wildlife.

Many of the impacts, such as noise, vistas marred by 400-foot (121-meter) cranes, construction lights degrading stargazing opportunities at Headlands International Dark Sky Park and vibrations that would disturb aquatic wildlife would end when the work is completed, the report found.

Other impacts would last longer, including the loss of wetlands and vegetation on both sides of the strait that connects Lake Huron and Lake Michigan, and the loss of nearly 300 trees that the northern long-eared bat and tricolored bat use to roost. Grading and excavation also could disturb or destroy archaeological sites.

The tunnel-boring machine could cause vibrations that could shift the area's geology. Soil in the construction area could become contaminated and nearly 200 truck trips daily during the six-year construction period would degrade area roads, the analysis found. Gas mixing with water seeping into the tunnel could result in an explosion, but the analysis notes that Enbridge plans to install fans to properly ventilate the tunnel during excavation.

Enbridge has pledged to comply with all safety standards, replant vegetation where possible and contain erosion, the analysis noted. The company also has said it would try to limit the loudest work to daytime hours as much as possible, and offset harm to wetlands and protected species by buying credits through mitigation banks. That money can then be used to fund restoration in other areas.

"Our goal is to have the smallest possible environmental footprint," Enbridge officials said in a statement. The Sierra Club issued a statement Friday saying the tunnel remains "an existential threat."

"Chances of an oil spill in the Great Lakes — our most valuable freshwater resource — skyrockets if this tunnel is built in the Straits," the group said. "We can't drink oil. We can't fish or swim in oil."

Julie Goodwin, a senior attorney with Earthjustice, an environmental law group that opposes the project, said the corps failed to consider the impacts of a spill that could still happen on either side of the straits or stopping the flow of oil through the Great Lakes.

"My key takeaways are the Army corps has put blinders are in service to Enbridge

and President Trump's fossil fuel agenda," she said.

Tunnel would protect portion of Line 5 running through straits. Enbridge has been using the Line 5 pipeline to transport crude oil and natural gas liquids between Superior, Wisconsin, and Sarnia, Ontario, since 1953. Roughly 4 miles (6 kilometers) of the pipeline runs along the bottom of the Straits of Mackinac.

Concerns about the aging pipeline rupturing and causing a potentially disastrous spill in the straits have been building over the last decade. Those fears intensified in 2018 when an anchor damaged the line.

Enbridge contends that the line remains structurally sound, but it struck a deal with then-Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder's administration in 2018 that calls for the company to replace the straits portion of the line with a new section that would be encased in a protective underground tunnel.

Enbridge and environmentalists spar in court battles. Environmentalists, Native American tribes and Democrats have been fighting in court for years to stop the tunnel and force Enbridge to remove the existing pipeline from the straits.

They've had little success so far.

A Michigan appellate court in February validated the state Public Service Commission's permits for the tunnel. Nessel sued in 2019 seeking to void the easement that allows Line 5 to run through the straits. That case is still pending. Whitmer revoked the easement in 2020, but Enbridge challenged that decision and a federal appellate court in April ruled that the case can proceed.

Another legal fight over Line 5 in Wisconsin

About 12 miles (19 kilometers) of Line 5 runs across the Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa's reservation in northern Wisconsin. That tribe sued in 2019 to force Enbridge to remove the line from the reservation, arguing it's prone to spilling and that easements allowing it to operate on the reservation expired in 2013.

Enbridge has proposed a 41-mile (66-kilometer) re-route around the reservation.

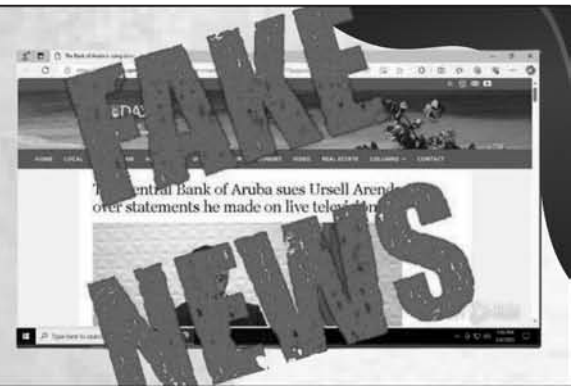
The tribe has filed a lawsuit seeking to void state construction permits for the project and has joined several other groups in challenging the permits through the state's contested case process. □



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## Hamas says it is still reviewing a U.S. proposal for a Gaza ceasefire

By ABDEL KAREEM HANA  
and BASSEM MROUE  
Associated Press

**DEIR AL-BALAH, Gaza Strip (AP)** — Hamas said Friday it was still reviewing a U.S. proposal for a temporary ceasefire in the Gaza Strip, where 27 people were killed in new Israeli airstrikes, according to hospital officials.

The ceasefire plan, which has been approved by Israeli officials, won a cool initial reaction Thursday from the militant group. But President Donald Trump said Friday negotiators were nearing a deal.

"They're very close to an agreement on Gaza, and we'll let you know about it during the day or maybe tomorrow," Trump told reporters in Washington.

U.S. negotiators have not publicized the terms of the proposal. But a Hamas official and an Egyptian official, speaking on condition of anonymity to discuss the sensitive talks, said Thursday that it called for a 60-day pause in fighting, guarantees of serious negotiations leading to a long-term truce and assurances that Israel will not resume hostilities after the release of hostages, as it did in March.

In a terse statement issued a few hours before Trump spoke, Hamas said it is holding consultations with Palestinian factions over the proposal it had received from U.S. envoy Steve Witkoff.

A United Nations spokesperson, Stephane Dujarric, urged the parties to "find the political courage" to secure an agreement.

While changes may have been made to the proposal, the version confirmed earlier called for Israeli forces to pull back to the positions they held before it ended the last ceasefire.



A Palestinian boy, injured following an Israeli airstrike, is brought for treatment to the Baptist Hospital in Gaza City, Friday, May 30, 2025.

Associated Press

Hamas would release 10 living hostages and a number of bodies during the 60-day pause in exchange for more than 1,100 Palestinians imprisoned by Israel, including 100 serving long sentences after being convicted of deadly attacks. Each day, hundreds of trucks carrying food and humanitarian aid would be allowed to enter Gaza, where experts say a nearly three-month Israeli blockade — slightly eased in recent days — has pushed the population to the brink of famine.

"Negotiations are ongoing on the current proposal," Qatar's ambassador to the United Nations, Alya Ahmed Saif Al-Thani said Friday, referring to talks between her country, the United States and Egypt. "We are very determined to find an ending to this horrific situation in Gaza."

On Thursday, a top Hamas official, Bassem Naim, said the U.S. proposal "does not respond to any of our people's demands, foremost among which is stopping the war and famine."

The uncertainty over the new proposal came as hospital officials said that 27 people had been killed Friday in separate airstrikes. A strike that hit a tent in the southern city of Khan Younis killed 13, including eight children, hospital officials said. The Israeli military did not immediately comment. Meanwhile, the bodies of 12 people, including three women, were brought to Shifa Hospital on Friday from the nearby Jabaliya refugee camp. The Palestinian Red Crescent Society said the bodies of two others were brought to a hospital in Gaza City.

Hospital officials also said Friday that at least 72 had

been killed in Gaza during the previous day. That figure does not include some hospitals in the north, which are largely cut off due to the fighting.

Since the war began, more than 54,000 Gaza residents, mostly women and children, have been killed according to the Gaza Health Ministry, which does not distinguish between civilians and combatants in its tally. The war began when Hamas attacked Israel on October 7, 2023, killing around 1,200 people, most of them civilians, and taking 250 hostages. Of those taken captive, 58 remain in Gaza, but Israel believes 35 are dead and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has said there are "doubts" about the fate of several others.

Some Gaza residents said their hope for a ceasefire is tempered by repeated dis-

appointment over negotiations that failed to deliver a lasting deal.

"This is the war of starvation, death, siege and long lines for food and toilets," Mohammed Abed told The Associated Press in the central Gaza city of Deir al-Balah. "This war is the 2025 nightmare, 2024 nightmare and 2023 nightmare." Abed said he and his family struggle to find food, waiting three hours to get a small amount of rice and eating only one meal daily. "It's heartbreaking that people are being starved because of politics. Food and water should not be used for political purposes," he said.

Another Gaza resident, Mohammed Mreil, said about the possibility of a truce that: "We want to live and we want them (Israelis) to live. God did not create us to die." □



# Ukraine says it's ready to resume talks with Russia but needs clarity on Kremlin's terms

By ILLIA NOVIKOV

Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) —

Ukraine is ready to resume direct peace talks with Russia in Istanbul on Monday, a top adviser to President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said, following days of uncertainty over whether Kyiv would attend a further meeting proposed by Moscow.

But Ukrainian officials have insisted that the Kremlin provide a promised memorandum setting out its position on ending the more than three-year war, before the two delegations sit down to negotiate.

"Ukraine is ready to attend the next meeting, but we want to engage in a constructive discussion," Andrii Yermak said in a statement on the website of Ukraine's Presidential Office late Thursday.

"This means it is important to receive Russia's draft. There is enough time four days are sufficient for preparing and sending the documents," Yermak said. Ukraine and its European allies have repeatedly ac-



In this photo taken on May 27, 2025 and provided by Ukraine's 24th Mechanized Brigade press service, a soldier prepares a 120mm mortar to fire towards Russian army positions near Chasiv Yar, Donetsk region, Ukraine, Tuesday, May 27, 2025.

Associated Press

cused the Kremlin of dragging its feet in peace efforts, while it tries to press its bigger army's battlefield initiative and capture more Ukrainian land.

Kyiv's Western partners, including the U.S., are urging Moscow to agree to an

unconditional ceasefire, something Kyiv has embraced while the Kremlin has held out for terms more to its liking.

Ukraine's top diplomat, Andrii Sybiha, also told reporters on Friday that Kyiv is waiting for Russia to clarify

its proposals ahead of a next round of talks.

"We want to end this war this year. We are interested in establishing a ceasefire, whether it is for 30 days, 50 days, or 100 days. Ukraine is open to discussing this directly with Russia," Sybiha

said at a joint news conference in Kyiv with his Turkish counterpart, Hakan Fidan. Sybiha and Fidan also held the door open to a future meeting between Presidents Zelenskyy and Vladimir Putin of Russia, possibly also including U.S. President Donald Trump. Fidan said the ongoing peace push in Istanbul could be "crowned with" such a meeting.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov on Friday told reporters that a Russian delegation will head to Istanbul and stand ready to take part in the second round of talks on June 2.

Russia's Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov on Wednesday publicly invited Ukraine to hold direct negotiations with Moscow on that date. In a video statement, Lavrov said Russia would use Monday's meeting to deliver an outline of Moscow's position on "reliably overcoming" what it calls the root causes of the war. Russian officials have said for weeks that such a document is forthcoming. □

# A statue of Stalin is unveiled in the Moscow subway as Russia tries to revive the dictator's legacy

**MOSCOW (AP)** — A monument to Josef Stalin has been unveiled at one of Moscow's busiest subway stations, the latest attempt by Russian authorities to revive the legacy of the brutal Soviet dictator.

The sculpture shows Stalin surrounded by beaming workers and children with flowers. It was installed at the Taganskaya station to mark the 90th anniversary of the Moscow Metro, the sprawling subway known

for its mosaics, chandeliers and other ornate decorations that was built under Stalin.

It replaces an earlier tribute that was removed in the decade following Stalin's 1953 death in a drive to root out his "cult of personality" and reckon with decades of repression marked by show trials, nighttime arrests and millions killed or thrown into prison camps as "enemies of the people."

Muscovites have given differing responses to the unveiling earlier this month, with some recalling how the country lived in fear under his rule.

Many commuters took photos of the monument and some laid flowers beneath it.

Aleksei Zavatsin, 22, told The Associated Press that Stalin was a "great man" who

had "made a poor country into a superpower."

"He raised the country from its knees," he said.

Activists from Society.Future, a Russian political movement that voices pro-democratic and nationalist views, protested by placing posters at the foot of the monument that quoted top politicians condemning the dictator.

One poster, featuring President Vladimir Putin, cited him as bemoaning Stalin's "mass crimes against the people," and saying his modernization of the USSR came at the price of "unacceptable" repression.

The unveiling came weeks after Putin signed a decree renaming the airport in Volgograd as Stalingrad as the city was called when the Soviet Red Army defeated Nazi German forces

there in one of the bloodiest battles of World War II. Volgograd itself briefly reverted to its former name on May 8-9 for Victory Day celebrations and will be temporarily renamed five more times this year to mark related wartime anniversaries.

Putin has invoked the Battle of Stalingrad, which lasted five months and saw up to 2 million soldiers and civilians killed, as justification for Moscow's actions in Ukraine.

Russian political analyst Pyotr Miloserdov said the Kremlin has used a broader drive to embrace Stalin's legacy to justify both the conflict in Ukraine and crackdown on dissent at home.

"Stalin was a tyrant, a despot, and that's what we need," he told AP. □



Passengers walk along a passage in front of a monument depicting Soviet leader Josef Stalin in the Taganskaya subway station in Moscow, Russia, on Wednesday, May 21, 2025.

Associated Press



## How Aruban beaches came to be!

(Oranjestad)—We've talked about the best beaches to visit on the island before, but have you ever wondered how Aruba got its white, sandy beaches, and why there's a clear difference between the northern and southern shores? Here are some fun facts about the development of Aruban beaches.

### How did Aruba get its white, sandy beaches?

Aruba's beaches have developed over the span of thousands of years. Waves crashing on the rocky formations along our coast line (which consists mainly of coral reefs) have started to wear and tear the reefs over time, resulting in its gradual breakdown. Fish that feed

off corals also contribute to this, one small bite at a time. Over the course of thousands of years, as waves continue to crash and fish continue to eat off the corals, sand starts to accumulate around the area. However, whether the sand stays there is another question to be answered, and this is where we highlight the biggest difference



between the northern and southern coast of the island.

The sand that accumulates around a torn coral reef is swept away along with the debris by the ocean stream. However, in areas where it's shallow and the stream is weaker, the sand tends to stick to the bottom faster. This is why the beaches in the south—the areas with weaker stream and shallower ocean floors—has sand that stretches for miles. In contrast, the northern area, where the stream is much stronger and the ocean floor is much deeper, there is no sand present—they were swept away with the current!

Why north deep, but south shallow?

Ah! Good question...and interesting phrasing.

Aruba is a continental island. The island actually forms part of South America, and the space between Aruba and the South American continent is simply referred to as land that runs under the ocean. This is why it gets gradually deeper in the south, whereas the ocean floor in the north runs steeply to the bottom. □

Source: archival document provided by the National Archive of Aruba (ANA).



## Adriaan Laclé

*One of Aruba's richest men in the twentieth century*



(Oranjestad)—The name Adriaan Laclé may ring a bell to locals as one of the bigger roads on the island, but about a century ago, Adriaan Laclé was a rich businessman, well-known for his generosity, wealth, and taste.

Adriaan was born in 1866 and was the eldest of

six children. Not much is known about his childhood upbringing or any of his earlier business ordeals, but during his heyday he often helped people get loans, was a well-established trader, and owned several plots of land. In fact, he commissioned the construction of the famous La Quinta Carmen manor—

now a restaurant. Though he himself never lived in the beautiful manor, his own house also reflected his success and good taste. Today his house still stands in good condition and can be found in the back streets of main street Oranjestad.

Regarding his personal life, it has been said that he was married twice during his lifetime. He had his first daughter during his first marriage but lost his wife soon after her birth. During his second marriage, he fathered 16 children. However, it has been said that only 11 of those 17 made it past 18 years of age. Perhaps two of his most well-known daughters are Maria Monica Laclé and Maria Veneranda Laclé, who went on to marry successful brothers Eloy Arends and Maximilian Arends, respectively. Their houses are still standing; Eloy and Maria Monica's mansion



functions as a townhall, used to host civil marriages, while Maximilian and Maria Veneranda's house stands on the opposite side of the road to them—though cur-

rently under renovation after years left in ruin. □

Source: De Kolibrie op de Rots (en meer over de geschiedenis van Aruba) by Evert Bongers.



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## Explore San Nicolas' Monuments and History during Open Monument Day this Sunday

**This Sunday, June 1st, from 10:30 AM to 5:00 PM, historic buildings and monuments in San Nicolas will open their doors to the public with a variety of activities.**

Stichting Monumentenfonds Aruba, in collaboration with the Department of Culture Aruba, will organize the second edition of Open Monument Day. Through activities, walking or bus tours, scavenger hunts, and presentations, the community will have the chance to learn more about San Nicolas' history and explore some of its houses and monuments.

The event will begin at the Watertower San Nicolas, where an official opening will take place at 10:30 AM with a beautiful presentation led by John Freddy Montoya, accompanied by Mabeline Arends Croes, the Tutti Frutti choir, and

various dance groups. At the Watertower, visitors can also receive the event brochure listing all the day's activities.

Monuments that will open their doors:

**Watertower San Nicolas | Bernhardstraat 164:**

Starting point to receive the informational brochure.

**Museum of Industry:**

Will host a mini scavenger hunt and storytelling sessions on both floors every thirty minutes.

**Nicolaas Store | B v/d VeenZeppenfeldstraat 27:**

Visit the community museum to learn about the history of San Nicolas and join a mini scavenger hunt with a chance to win prizes.

**Uncle Louis Store | B v/d VeenZeppenfeldstraat:**

Get to know the Uncle Louis Store building, a monu-

ment that has received two awards since its restoration. Find information from the Directorate of Nature and Environment and the architect responsible for the restoration.

**House of the Vorst Family | Cayá Dick Cooper 15:**

Visit the first cunucu (traditional countryside) house of San Nicolas and learn a bit about the Vorst family's history.

**House of the Hope Family | Cayá Sint John 21:**

A wooden cunucu house over 90 years old will open its doors, and at 4:00 PM, there will be a special musical presentation by Watra.

**Santa Teresita Church:**

Will also open to the public, offering various activities with chances to win prizes.

**Monument Hunt**

Join the Monument Hunt with your family. Download or reinstall the MyAruba app, form your team, and participate to win prizes. For more info: [www.monumentenfondsaruba.com](http://www.monumentenfondsaruba.com)

**Exhibition "Live Our Heritage"**

A two-year project featuring various photo challenges concludes with an exhibition during Open Monument Day and an online magazine created by project volunteers.

**Presentations at the National Library San Nicolas:**

Lecture: San Nicolas in the

20th Century presented by Leon Berenos, offering a historical journey through San Nicolas' development.

**Wikipedia Project about Aruba:**

Will share information about the project and how the public can help expand content on Aruba's cultural heritage in Papiamentu on the world's largest encyclopedia.

**Guided Tours:**

There will be three different bus tours guided through larger parts of San Nicolas. The bus departs from Teresita Center.

3:00 PM: Mural Tour with guide Tito Bolivar – Starting point: Artisa

3:45 PM: Tour titled "Nostalgia" through the Village guided by Mr. Leon Berenos – Meeting point: Lolita's statue

**Arts, Crafts & Photography:**

At Teresita Center, there will be various children's activities, such as photography workshops, painting classes, and crafts.

**Wheels in Motion:**

IBISA and CEDE Aruba have made the WAW Mobile available so visiting children can enjoy movement and fun throughout the event.

**Painting Workshop:**

Space 21 and Artisa will open their gallery doors to



all visitors.

Use the inspiration gained during a painting workshop for adults at 2:00 PM at Artisa.

**San Nicolas Pop-Up Market:**

Visit the Pop-Up Market at Bv/d VeenZeppenfeldstraat for handicrafts, snacks, and more.

Many local San Nicolas businesses will also open their doors to offer the best of Aruba's local flavors.

Don't miss the opportunity to visit Open Monument Day this Sunday, June 1st with the whole family—explore monuments, learn their history, take part in fun activities, and get a chance to win great prizes! □

**For more information:**  
Visit our Facebook page: Stichting Monumentenfonds Aruba  
**Or Instagram:**  
[@monumentsfundaruba](https://www.instagram.com/monumentsfundaruba)





**Celebrating Forty Years – Weekly Free Slot or Table Play for all Qualified Club Members**

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## THE SHOPS AT ALHAMBRA CASINO

Auntie Anne's Pretzels | Aruba Aloe | Baskin-Robbins  
Juan Valdez Café | Hungry Piranha - Pizza, Wings & More  
The Brownstone Ribs and Seafood | The Market  
Shalom Body & Soul Spa | Moments & Memories Jewelry  
Magnet Perfume Jewelry & Cosmetics | The Lazy Lizard  
Shalom Hair & Nails Bar | Twist of Flavors | Dunkin Donuts  
Treasure Cove | El Patio Tacos & Tequila | M8 Boutique  
Fusion Restaurant, Tapas, Wine & Piano Bar

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Play Responsibly. Visit [www.gamblersanonymous.org](http://www.gamblersanonymous.org) if you or someone you know has a gambling problem.



## The Bushiribana Gold Mill Ruins and its history

(Oranjestad)—The Bushiribana Gold Mill Ruins is one of the most visited places by tourists on the island, as it lies along the northern coast line near the mini pool and on the way to the Natural Bridge. Despite its seemingly plain appearance, this ruin represents one of the most important histories of the island: The Aruban Gold Rush.



Built in 1872 by English company Aruba Island Gold Mining Company Ltd, the gold mill at Bushiribana was constructed in the area where most gold was found by locals. The story of gold on Aruba actually dates back to 1725, when a first exploration for gold on the island was commissioned by the Dutch West India Company. Under the leadership of Mr. Paulus Printz, a three-year search was conducted on Aruba, to no avail. Though they found some gold, it was enough to motivate a further search, and the assignment was discontinued by Printz himself.

It wasn't until 100 years later, in 1824, when a young boy found a lump of gold while out herding his father's sheep. His father took

it to a local merchant who then sold the lump for \$70. Unbeknownst to the boy and his father, they quite literally struck gold, and as word got out, a gold fever



spread among the locals who started searching for more gold. About 25 pounds worth was found.

At the same time, the Aruban government took immediate actions, and informed Curaçao that gold was found. At first, everyone could look for gold, as long as they sold it to the government. However, after some time, the government decided to implement stricter rules and banned local search parties.

Over the years, concession-holding had seen different companies from around the world, all of which used primitive methods to dig and carve out gold from the rocks. Aruba Island Gold

Mining Company Ltd. was no different, but used a unique method that involved grinding the rocks and letting the dust be blown away by the strong northeast wind, leaving clumps of gold behind. The next step was melting the gold and letting it attach to quicksilver in order to obtain pure gold. All these processes were done at the Bushiribana Gold Mill.

The gold mill itself had a short life-span: only 10 years in service, but its structure remained relatively solid till this day, and is now a historical remnant. □

**Sources: Etnia Nativa & gold-mineranch.com.**

## Aruba to me

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## Aruba's cultural and literary development: Then and now

(Oranjestad)—The Aruban culture has seen many substantial developments over the course of a century. With the introduction of the Lago Refinery at the turn of the 20th century, followed by the breakout of the Second World War and the general incentive for political independence during the mid-century, a cultural identity on the island began to take form and have since developed through international and local influences.

In the pre-industrial era of the 19th century, much could not be said about a cultural identity on the island. Still being a part of a Dutch colonial territory at the time, as well as not having political or economic autonomy (Curacao was the center of commerce, cultural life, and political management of the Netherland Antilles at the time), the small population of Aruba consisted mostly of farmers and fishermen, tending to their crops and their cattle, or going out to fish to provide for their family. As Quito Nicolaas states in his article *Historia di Literatura Arubiano: E Bida Cultural* (Literary History of Aruba: Cultural Life), "during the pre-industrial period, there were no significant economic activity that could have created a cultural ambience, with only one way to generate profit at the time for the subexistence of Aruban families."

It wasn't until the introduction of the Lago Refinery in San Nicolas in 1928, that the island saw a small boom in cultural manifes-



tations and entertainment, as farmers left the 'cunucu' (country) life to work in the refinery, which resulted in Aruba acquiring a different economic pillar. Before this, entertainment and cultural manifestations were mostly experienced by local parishes and the island's elite, who often partook in cultural and entertaining activities around the island, like going to the movie theater or coming together to share poetry on Sundays

after church.

### Literary life

Throughout the 19th century and up until the 1940s, there were also not much trace of a cultural climate for the cultural-literary sector on the island. Primary education was introduced on the island in the mid-19th century, followed by secondary and higher education around the late 30's and 40's. It wasn't until the 1950s, with the introduction

of the E.R.N.A agreement in 1951 and the signing of the Statute in 1954, which allowed more space for and control over the economic and cultural development of Aruba, that the literary life on the island began to grow substantially compared to decades before. This was in response to local institutions established in the 1940s for cultural and literary growth on the island, but that did not yet capture the attention of the general public. The 1950 brought with it a boom of literary production on the island, like those of V.S. Piternella, as well as migrant authors José Ramón Vicioso y Rings William Rufus, who have also contributed to the literary development on the island. The literary movement was further promoted by local broadcasters Voz di Aruba and Radio Kelkboom, with their regular broadcast of

literary works.

The 50s and 60s also saw the influence of international cultures, especially that of the United States. During this time, because of international influences as well as the continued prosperity of the oil refinery, cultural traditions in Aruba began to really take form and become widespread, as different worldly and local concepts were introduced in the Aruban society. With the establishment of local television broadcast station Tele-Aruba in 1963, and with time and possibilities, local programs such as "Nos Tera" ("Our Land") started to pay more attention to the Aruban culture and worked to form a cultural consciousness within the community. The 1960s also saw the rise of local authors and artists, who were more comfortable in producing works in our native tongue, Papiamentu, but who also produced works in Spanish, English and Dutch. This new phenomenon was in response to the interaction between economic growth, individual prosperity, cultural life and literary expression.

### The 21st century

Nowadays, international influence on our culture is still prevalent, especially those from Latin America, the United States and The Netherlands. Nevertheless, there also exists a strong cultural identity and traditions that are exclusive to the Aruban culture, often manifesting during traditional celebrations, like Dia di San Juan/ Dera Gai (St. John's Day), Dia di Himno y Bandera (National Hymn and Flag Day), Camping during Easter and much more. With the surge of social media in the last decade, artistic voices, especially those of the younger generation, has become even more prevalent and easily accessible to the community of Aruba through online platforms such as Facebook, Instagram and TikTok. □

Source: *Historia di Literatura Arubiano: E Bida Cultural* by J.R. "Quito" Nicolaas



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**For a small island, Aruba sure has a lot of unique treasures. Among these, we have some subspecies of animals that are unique to our island. These have evolved to perfectly adapt to our desert climate and make Aruba their home. At the same time, they are part of what makes Aruba truly one of a kind.**

#### **Cascabel (rattlesnake, *Crotalus durissus unicolor*)**

According to the Arikok National Park, Aruba knows two kinds of snakes, the Santanero and the Cascabel. The cascabel belongs to the rattlesnake family. The cascabel is the only venomous snake from Aruba. It has a length of 65cm to 100cm, and is about 4 to 5cm wide. Its color varies from light brown to grey-brown, and its underbelly is white. On its back there are marks that are a little darker, in the shape of diamonds.

Its reproduction is oviparous, meaning the offspring can hatch from their eggs just before, during or immediately after laying.

The cascabel lives mainly in the Arikok National Park. It likes to live in dark places, and is thus found hidden among the limestone rocks and under stones. As a defense mechanism, the cascabel uses its rattle as a warning, and it is not an aggressive animal.

The cascabel feeds on lizards, small mammals such as rats and mice. It paralyzes or kills its prey with its venom, which is injected through a bite. The enemies of the cascabel

are donkeys, goats, humans and cars. Humans are the biggest enemy of the cascabel, as they kill them and destroy their habitat for urbanization.

#### **Shoco (burrowing owl, *Athene cucularia arubensis*)**

The shoco is a small bird which is seldom seen. They are active during the day but are more active later in the day and at night for hunting. These owls have very good night vision and very good hearing.

The shoco is the national symbol of Aruba.

The shoco has about 20cm of length, and the females are slightly heavier than the males. They are light brown in color, with many white spots. The belly of the Shoco is either white or light brown, and the shoco has striking yellow eyes. Its beak is yellow/green. Young owls do not have white spots and are lighter in color. The nest of the shoco is a burrow in the ground. If the shoco cannot find a burrow, it will dig one in soft soil. The shoco lays one or two eggs every other day until all the eggs are laid – a shoco can lay up to four eggs. The first owlets hatch after three to four weeks. The shoco owl takes care of the owlets for three months until they leave the nest. Only a few owlets survive.

The owls dig burrows in the ground with low grass vegetation. An owl can live up to nine years.

Its defense mechanism is simply to fly away or retreat to its burrows. They eat mostly insects, mice and

## Unique fauna of Aruba

lizards, and the main threats to their survival are boas – an invasive species introduced by humans as pets – and humans through destruction of their habitat.

#### **Prikichi (parakeet, *Aratinga pertinax*)**

The Prikichi is the national bird of Aruba. On Aruba, Bonaire, and Curaçao, parakeets can be found, but each of the three islands has a different breed. The Yellow-shouldered Amazon parakeet that we have on Aruba is also found along the coast of Venezuela. Unfortunately, there is interbreeding between the breeds due to cage birds from, for example, Curaçao being released on Aruba. The parakeet population on Aruba is in danger due to extensive deforestation occurring on the island because of the growing population.

The prikichi weighs between 90 to 100 grams. It has a greenish-brown head with some yellow around the eye. The back and wings of the parakeet are dark green, and the underside of the body is a lighter shade of green. There is also a bit of blue in the wings. The parakeet's beak is gray/black.

Parakeets often use termite nests as breeding sites. Parakeets are found in all natural environments (mondi) of the island. It defends itself by flying away and loud cries. Parakeets eat seeds from the pods of the Kwihi tree, Divi Divi, and columnar cactus. They also consume natural fruits. Its main predators are boa constrictors, humans.


#### **Conew (cottontail rabbit, *Sylvilagus floridanus nigroneuchalis*)**

The Eastern Cottontail rabbit (*Sylvilagus floridanus*) was probably brought over to the island by Indian settlers thousands of years ago as a source of food. This rabbit, locally known as Conew, has spread all over the island and has become part of our ecosystem. The very adaptable Conew can live in

a wide variety of habitats, including Aruba's xeric scrublands, where it typically grazes on weeds and grasses.

The Aruban Conew has a brownish grey color and a distinctive white belly. This white fur extends to the bottom of the tail which becomes visible as the rabbit runs. These rabbits can grow up to approximately 40 centimeters in length over their short lifespan of 3 years. Cottontail rabbits reach reproductive maturity when they are just 2 to 3 months old. A female rabbit, called a doe, finds a suitable nest spot under a shrub or rocks and lines it with fur. She can have an average of 3 to 4 litters per year averaging 5 young each. The doe only visits her young once or twice a day to nurse her babies for a period of 2 to 3 weeks. The young reach independence at 4 to 5 weeks.

The Aruban Conew is an endangered species and protected by Aruban law. The Conew is thought to have drastically declined due to an increase in human activities, habitat fragmentation and predation by the invasive Boa constrictor as well as feral cats and dogs. However, recently there seem to be more rabbit sightings in rural and wilderness areas and also in the National Park. This could be linked to a recent decline of the invasive Boa population after the long period of drought. As the Conew can reproduce very quickly, a short break in predation pressure can lead to a fast increase of rabbits. Sadly, the Boas are back on the rise again with the truly wet rainy seasons we have recently experienced. This could cause a new decline in the Conew population that was just starting to recover.

These are but a few of Aruba's beautiful inhabitant, which we must all contribute to protect. For more information, visit <https://www.arubanationalpark.org/main/flora-fauna/> 





**CROSSWORD**  
By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 40 Unable to eat another bite
- 41 Meanders
- 42 French father

- DOWN**
- 1 44th president
- 2 Excellent
- 3 Holt of NBC News
- 4 Early hour
- 5 Murder
- 6 Golf goal
- 7 Beautiful boy
- 8 Take offense at
- 9 Patellae places

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			B	R	A		M	U	G	S
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- 11 Paving stuff
- 17 Site of some silt
- 20 Make sport of
- 21 In the cards
- 23 Hopping mad
- 25 Closing number
- 26 Follows, as advice
- 27 Pump full of bubbles
- 28 Seinfeld neighbor
- 29 Raucous bird
- 31 Dis-paraging
- 33 March time
- 36 Purpose
- 38 Navigating aid

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9
10				11		12			
13						14			
15				16	17			18	
19			20				21		
	22					23			
			24						
	25	26					27	28	
29					30				31
32				33				34	
35			36			37	38		
39						40			
41							42		

AXYDLBAAXR  
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

**6-3 CRYPTOQUOTE**

FKLY QZ KT ICH EYUY SC JKY  
SCACUUCE. FYQUP QZ KT ICH  
EYUY SC FKLY TCUYLYU.

— AQQQSAQ DQPJGK  
Cryptoquote: MY MOTHER SHED  
HER PROTECTIVE LOVE DOWN AROUND ME  
AND WITHOUT KNOWING WHY PEOPLE SENSED  
THAT I HAD VALUE. — MAYA ANGELOU

**Cruise ship Schedule: June 01 - 27 2025**

			ARR	DEPT	BERTH	
SUN	01	SILVER SHADOW FREEWINDS - Dept.	08.00 ****	23.00 22.30	C E	1 -
WED	04	RHAPSODY OF THE SEAS	08.00	23.00	C	1
TUE	10	CARNIVAL HORIZON CARNIVAL MARDI GRAS	09.00 13.00	23.00 23.00	C I	1 1
TUE	17	ADVENTURE OF THE SEAS CARNIVAL VISTA	07.00 13.00	16.00 23.00	B C	1 1
WED	18	CARNIVAL CELEBRATION RHAPSODY OF THE SEAS OASIS OF THE SEAS	08.00 08.00 07.00	22.00 23.00 16.00	C B I	1 1 1
TUE	24	CARNIVAL HORIZON	09.00	23.00	C	1
FRI	27	SEVEN SEAS MARINER	10.00	21.00	C	1

**Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba**

(Oranjestad)—When traveling to another country, especially for the first time, it is always better to be over-prepared than under-prepared. That is why we have a list of basicbut important information that we think may come in handy to Aruba's visitors.

**Electrical power**

Aruba generally operates on 110V to 127V supply voltage and 60Hz. There are also three types of outlets used on the island: type A with two flat prongs; type B with two flat and one grounding prong, and on occasion, type F with two round prong and two earth clips on the side. However, Type A is most commonly found in homes and establishments.

**Drinking water**

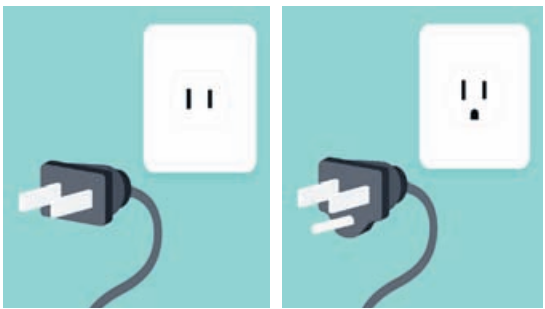
The water that flows through the sinks of every house, hotels and other establishments is distilled and perfectly safe to drink. Aruba's drinking water exceeds WHO's international standards for water quality, so there is no need to buy bottled water from the store.

**Supermarket hours**

Supermarket hours may vary depending on where you are staying on the island. Generally though, most supermarkets are open from 8am to 9 or 10pm, Monday through Saturday. On Sundays, supermarkets generally close earlier; mostly around 2pm.

**Safety**

Since February 2024, Aruba has been categorized as the safest country in the Caribbean by The Telegraph, and many tourist that visit have often told us how they feel safe to explore the island or walk around at night. However, rare incidents do occurs, so keep yourself and your belongings safe.





# Half of world's population endured extra month of extreme heat due to climate change, experts say

By ISABELLA O'MALLEY  
Associated Press

Scientists say 4 billion people, about half the world's population, experienced at least one extra month of extreme heat because of human-caused climate change from May 2024 to May 2025.

The extreme heat caused illness, death, crop losses, and strained energy and health care systems, according to the analysis from World Weather Attribution, Climate Central and the Red Cross.

"Although floods and cyclones often dominate headlines, heat is arguably the deadliest extreme event," the report said. Many heat-related deaths are unreported or are mislabeled by other conditions like heart disease or kidney failure.

The scientists used peer-reviewed methods to study how much climate change boosted temperatures in an extreme heat event and calculated how much more likely its occurrence was because of climate change. In almost all countries in the world, the number of extreme heat days has at least doubled compared with a world without climate change. Caribbean islands were among the hardest hit by additional extreme heat days. Puerto Rico, a territory of the United States, endured 161 days of extreme heat. Without climate change, only 48 would have occurred.

"It makes it feel impossible to be outside," said Charlotte Gossett Navarro, chief director for Puerto Rico at Hispanic Federation, a nonprofit focused on social and environmental issues



Bathers cool off in the water while others sunbathe on a Barcelona beach, Spain, Wednesday, July 24, 2024.

Associated Press

in Latino communities, who lives in the San Juan area and was not involved in the report.

"Even something as simple as trying to have a day outdoors with family, we weren't able to do it because the heat was too high," she said, reporting feeling dizzy and sick last summer.

When the power goes out, which happens frequently in Puerto Rico in part because of decades of neglected grid maintenance and damage from Hurricane Maria in 2017, Navarro said it is difficult to

sleep. "If you are someone relatively healthy, that is uncomfortable, it's hard to sleep but if you are someone who has a health condition, now your life is at risk," Gossett Navarro said. Heat waves are silent killers, said Friederike Otto, associate professor of climate science at Imperial College London, one of the report's authors. "People don't fall dead on the street in a heat wave people either die in hospitals or in poorly insulated homes and therefore are just not seen," he said.

Low-income communities

and vulnerable populations, such as older adults and people with medical conditions, suffer the most from extreme heat. □



## HEALTH

### DOCTOR ON DUTY

#### Oranjestad

Hospital 7:00 pm / 10:00pm  
Tel. 527 4000

#### San Nicolas

Imsan 24 hours  
Tel. 524 8833

### PHARMACY ON DUTY

#### Oranjestad:

del Pueblo: Tel. 582 1253

#### San Nicolas:

Centro Medico: Tel. 584 5794

### OTHER

Dental Clinic 587 9850

Blood Bank Aruba 587 0002

Urgent Care 586 0448

Walk-In Doctor's Clinic

+297 588 0539

### EMERGENCY

Police	100
Oranjestad	527 3140
Noord	527 3200
Sta. Cruz	527 2900
San Nicolas	584 5000
Police Tipline	11141
Ambulancia	911
Fire Dept.	115
Red Cross	582 2219

### TAXI SERVICES

Taxi Tas	587 5900
Prof. Taxi	588 0035
Taxi D.T.S.	587 2300
Taxi Serv. Aruba	583 3232
A1 Taxi Serv.	280 2828

### TRAVEL INFO

Aruba Airport	524 2424
American Airlines	582 2700
Avianca	588 0059
Jet Blue	588 2244
Surinam	582 7896

### AID FOUNDATIONS

Aruba Food Bank	Tel. 588 0002
FAVI- Visually Impaired	Tel. 582 5051
Alcoholics Anonymous	Tel. 736 2952
Narcotics Anonymous	Tel. 583 8989
Fundacion Contra Violencia Relacional	Tel. 583 5400
Centre for Diabetes	Tel. 524 8888
Child Abuse Prevention	Tel. 582 4433
Quota Club	Tel. 525 2672

### General Info

Phone Directory Tel. 118

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ARUBA TODAY NEWS

**ROCOO PLAZA**  
**MEGA FLEAMARKET**  
**SUNDAY 1 JUNI**  
**CLEARANCE SALE**  
**ANTIQUESHOP &**  
**OUTLET Saturday 8am**  
**741-5640 Antiqueshop**  
Open daily 9-2 Sat 8-1 and  
every FIRST Sunday open  
9am -1pm



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## Movie Review: A deeply disturbing portrait of grief in gory horror 'Bring Her Back'

By LINDSEY BAHR  
AP Film Writer

Beware the quirky foster mother who introduces herself as a bit of a weirdo. That's how Laura (Sally Hawkins) cheerily greets the newly orphaned teenage siblings Andy and Piper in the new horror "Bring Her Back," which opens in theaters Friday.

The comment, more telling than the kids realize at the time, comes after Laura excitedly introduces Piper, who is non-sighted, to her dog. She thinks it's a good joke to not explain first that the animal is not alive.

The taxidermy is in fact the least weird thing about Laura. Australian filmmakers Michael and Danny Philippou, also behind the teen chiller debut "Talk to Me," have dreamed up a new nightmare of trauma, grief, resurrection and the deep failures of Australia's child protective services. That last part is not actually a prominent throughline in the film, but after witnessing what these kids endure in the brisk 104-minute runtime, you too might have some questions about that department's standard practices.

Many horror movies and stories have utilized non-seeing characters to enhance the suspense. "Bring



This image released by A24 shows Sally Hawkins, left, and Jonah Wren Phillips in a scene from "Bring Her Back."

Associated Press

Her Back" strives to make Piper (newcomer Sora Wong) more than a gimmick but a young woman trying to assert her independence she refuses to use her cane, which she thinks makes everyone baby her. Piper's main protector is her sweet and attentive older brother Andy (Billy Barratt). The film gives the audience a morsel of normality with these two before plunging us into the horror, first with

the sudden death of their father, and then with the strange goings on at Laura's secluded home.

They're surprised when they arrive to find there's another child there as well: Olly (Jonah Wren Phillips), who is mute, deeply strange and, when not locked in his room, getting into bloody messes of his own making. If you're squeamish about gaping wounds and the full surround sound experience

of their squishing and oozing, this might not be the movie for you. For those who delight in the crafts behind it all, the makeup and sound work here is truly top notch.

Like many of "Bring Her Back's" genre peers, the occult, nude older men and grainy VHS tapes also co-star in the proceedings. Laura, whose non-seeing daughter drowned recently, is particularly fixated on

Piper and equally as dismissive of poor Andy.

While you can probably guess her endgame, the way it comes together is more of the point, and the Philippou twins certainly infuse the film with a fair amount of foreboding before anything truly deranged starts happening. It's a fun mystery to watch Laura's strange behavior, which one eventful day includes encouraging Andy to kiss his dead father on the lips ("it's custom"), getting the kids drunk and peeing in a measuring cup. Andy, three months shy of 18, was not originally supposed to accompany his sister to the foster home. But he convinces the social worker to give him a chance until he can apply for legal guardianship. Unfortunately, Laura seems intent on driving him away. He already has lingering trauma from finding his dead father (and other things that will be revealed in time), and now there's this chipper, tiny woman ready to gaslight him into insanity. Barratt, who won acclaim for his portrayal of a 12-year-old accused of killing his mother's boyfriend in the British television film "Responsible Child," is excellent in a difficult role. □

## Taylor Swift has regained control of her music, buys back first 6 albums

By MARIA SHERMAN  
AP Music Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Taylor Swift has regained control



Taylor Swift performs at Wembley Stadium as part of her Eras Tour June 21, 2024, in London.

Associated Press

over her entire body of work.

In a lengthy note posted to her official website on Friday, Swift announced: "All of the music I've ever made now belongs to me."

The pop star said she purchased her catalog of recordings originally released through Big Machine Records from their most recent owner, the private equity firm Shamrock Capital. She did not disclose the amount.

In recent years, Swift has been rerecording and releasing her first six albums in

an attempt to regain control of her music.

"I can't thank you enough for helping to reunite me with this art that I have dedicated my life to, but have never owned until now," Swift addressed fans in the post. "The best things that have ever been mine ... finally actually are."

"We are thrilled with this outcome and are so happy for Taylor," Shamrock Capital said in a statement.

Swift's rerecordings were instigated by Hybe America CEO Scooter Braun's purchase and sale of her

early catalog and represents Swift's effort to control her own songs and how they're used. Previous "Taylor's Version" releases have been more than conventional re-recordings, arriving with new "from the vault" music, Easter eggs and visuals that deepen understanding of her work. "I am happy for her," Braun said Friday.

She has also released new music, including last year's "The Tortured Poets Department," announced during the 2024 Grammys and released during her record-breaking tour. □



# French Open: Swiatek and Sabalenka reach fourth round without dropping a set

By **JEROME PUGMIRE**  
AP Sports Writer

**PARIS (AP)** — Defending champion Iga Swiatek joined No. 1-ranked Aryna Sabalenka in the fourth round of the French Open on Friday and neither player has dropped a set. Sabalenka, a three-time Grand Slam winner who has only once reached the semifinals at Roland-Garros, beat Olga Danilovic 6-2, 6-3 on Court Philippe-Chatrier, where the hot weather contrasted with previous days. "The ball flies much faster," Sabalenka said. "The bounces are much higher." Swiatek, who has won four of her five major titles at Roland-Garros, defeated Jaqueline Cristian 6-2, 7-5 on Court Suzanne-Lenglen to extend her French Open winning streak to 23 matches. A second set lasting 1 hour, 16 minutes, tested the Pole, who yelled in relief after winning on her second match point. Swiatek had 20 winners and 21 unforced errors. "She used her chances and just went for it," said



Poland's Iga Swiatek returns the ball to Romania's Jaqueline Cristian during their third round match of the French Tennis Open, at the Roland-Garros stadium, in Paris, Friday, May 30, 2025. Associated Press

Swiatek, who enjoyed temperatures which reached 29 degrees (84 F). "For sure I don't mind. On clay it gives the balls the extra bounce." Sabalenka and Swiatek have been in contrasting form. Sabalenka has reached six singles finals this year, the

most for a woman entering Roland-Garros since Serena Williams in 2013. But Swiatek is looking to reach her first final anywhere since winning her third straight French Open title, and fourth overall, a year ago. No woman has won four straight French Opens in the Open era.

Asked who was under the most pressure to win this year her or Swiatek Sabalenka said, jokingly: "Let's just leave it on Iga since she won it, what, three times in a row?" Defending men's champion Carlos Alcaraz of Spain was in action later Friday. The No. 2-ranked Alcaraz

faced Damir Dzumhur, who hurt his left knee during a fall in his second-round win. **What else happened at the French Open on Friday?** No. 4-seeded Jasmine Paolini, last year's runner-up, beat Ukrainian Yuliia Starodubtseva 6-4, 6-1, and No. 12 Elena Rybakina won against 2017 champion Jelena Ostapenko. Olympic champion Zheng Qinwen beat 18-year-old qualifier Victoria Mboko 6-3, 6-4, while No. 16 Amanda Anisimova and Liudmila Samsonova also advanced. In men's third-round play, No. 8 Lorenzo Musetti of Italy beat Mariano Navone, No. 10 Holger Rune of Denmark beat Frenchman Quentin Halys in five sets, and 12th-seeded American Tommy Paul did the same against No. 24 Karen Khachanov. No. 15 Frances Tiafoe beat No. 23 Sebastian Korda 7-6 (6), 6-3, 6-4 in an all-American matchup, joining Paul and No. 13 Ben Shelton to give the U.S. three men in the French Open fourth round for the first time since 1995. □

# Del Toro stays in pink at Giro d'Italia after first of two mountain showdowns

**CHAMPOLUC, Italy (AP)** — One down, one to go. Isaac Del Toro maintained his tight grip on the Giro d'Italia pink jersey on Friday, the first of two massive alpine days. Del Toro even managed to increase his advantage slightly as the Mexican rider edged closest challenger Richard Carapaz to claim second place on the 19th stage and two precious extra bonus seconds. The duo crossed the line 58 seconds behind Nicolas Prodhomme, who claimed the biggest victory of his career on the Queen stage. Del Toro inched to 43 seconds ahead of Carapaz overall. Simon Yates remained third but slipped to one minutes, 21 seconds behind Del Toro.

Del Toro has been in pink since the end of the ninth stage, when he became the first Mexican cyclist to lead the Giro. His continued success has sparked cycling fever in his home country. He dominates the front pages of the newspapers and Mexico President Claudia Sheinbaum wished him luck in her press conference on Thursday. "It's amazing. I cannot believe it to be honest. All the people in my country now start to see the sport and how hard it is and it's just incredible," Del Toro said. "I think we are coming a little bit, step by step, but now it's incredible this feeling." He added with a laugh, "And I cannot believe I'm the guy who represents the country. They

need to send another one better I think." The stage featured 5,000 meters of elevation across five climbs three of which were of the highest classification on a 166-kilometer (103-mile) route from Biella to Champoluc. Prodhomme was part of a large breakaway right at the start, and he pulled clear of the remaining escapees on the penultimate climb up the Col de Joux to solo to victory. The French cyclist had a broad smile on his face as he approached the finish and he sat up and stretched out his arms before putting his hands over his face, in disbelief, as he crossed the line for his first win in a Grand Tour and only the second victory in his career.

"I waited a long time for a win, but I won my first race three weeks ago, and now I win here in Grand Tour, in Giro d'Italia," Prodhomme said. "I'm very, very happy and it's a very, very nice

day." Behind Prodhomme, Carapaz attacked on the final climb 6.8 kilometers from the finish and only Del Toro stayed with him. The pair rode away from the peloton. □



France's Nicolas Prodhomme of Decathlon Ag2R La Mondiale Team reacts after crossing the finish line to win the 19th stage of the Giro d'Italia cycling race, from Biella to Champoluc, Italy, Friday, May 30, 2025.

Associated Press



# Panthers and Oilers are now more alike as their Stanley Cup Final rematch arrives

By **STEPHEN WHYNO**  
AP Hockey Writer

A year ago when the Florida Panthers and Edmonton Oilers met in the Stanley Cup Final, they were polar opposites in everything from climate, market and franchise history to deep-run experience and toughness.

Since Florida won that series in seven games for its first championship, much has changed to make these opponents much more alike.

The Panthers have added talent and skill, and the Oilers have gotten older and become harder to play against. Those changes set the stage for an compelling rematch. Game 1 is Wednesday night in Edmonton.

"These are the two nastiest teams left," 2003 Cup winner Mike Rupp said. "They don't seem to get rattled, they play with a lot of intensity sometimes they cross the line. They just defend well. There's a lot of things that they're different than one another about, but at the core of it, they're pretty similar to each other." Comparing the two



Florida Panthers center Aleksander Barkov (16) talks to Edmonton Oilers center Connor McDavid (97) at the end of Game 7 of the NHL hockey Stanley Cup Final, Monday, June 24, 2024, in Sunrise, Fla.

Connor McDavid and Leon Draisaitl haven't gone anywhere, but they've also been through the heartbreak of forcing Game 7 against the Panthers and falling short of the goal they've been hunting over the past decade together. With Trent Frederic, Jeff Skinner, John Klingberg and Jake Walman, the Oil-

ers are bigger and more seasoned for this.

"They're meaner," said retired defenseman Jason Demers, who like Rupp is now an NHL Network analyst. "They have a little bite to their game a lot more bite than last year where they were a little bit more speedy."

Florida can be speedy, op-

portunistic and dangerous and has been over the past few postseasons winning 10 of 11 series since coach Paul Maurice took over and winger Matthew Tkachuk arrived after a trade from Calgary.

The Panthers are in the final for a third consecutive year, losing to Vegas in 2023 only after Tkachuk,

defenseman Aaron Ekblad and others were banged up to the point that they had nothing left in the tank. They were the underdog back then.

With one successful Cup run complete and with Seth Jones and Brad Marchand added to the core led by Tkachuk and captain Aleksander Barkov, they now look unstoppable.

"They're a heck of a team," McDavid said after beating Dallas to win the Western Conference Final. "Obviously, it's their third finals. They're a special group. We're a special group. It's going to be fun."

Rough and tumble

It also could be physical. The Oilers lost hard-nosed winger Zach Hyman to a long-term injury late in the series against the Stars, but they are more prepared now to play the rough-and-tumble style Florida has won with. The fact that it's a rematch in the final the NHL's first since Pittsburgh beat Detroit in the second of their back-to-backs in 2009 — only spices things up. There have only been four rematches in the Final since 1968. □

Associated Press



NCAA President Charlie Baker speaks during the organizations Division I Business Session at their annual convention, Jan. 15, 2025, in Nashville, Tenn

By **MAURA CAREY**  
AP Sports Writer

**ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)** — NCAA President Charlie Baker said Thursday he sees value in expanding the NCAA Tournament by a handful of teams and wants to reach a decision on the matter in the next few months.

Baker spoke during Big 12 spring meetings, where

conference leaders are discussing everything from the multibillion-dollar revenue-sharing House settlement to complexities brought on by the transfer portal and name, image and likeness compensation.

Baker discussed the idea of expanding from 68 teams to 72 or 76.

"We've had good conver-

## March Madness bracket expansion would add value and could be decided in next few months, Baker says

sations with CBS and WBD," Baker said, referring to Warner Bros. Discovery, whose holdings include the Turner networks that air NCAA Tournament games. "Our goal here is to try to sort of get to either yes or no sometime in the next few months because there's a lot of logistical work that would be associated with doing this. If we were to go down this road, you just think about the opening weekends, who has to travel the longest, it gets complicated."

The NCAA Tournament expanded from 64 to 68 teams in 2011. The change introduced the First Four round, a set of pre-tournament games in which the four

lowest-seeded at-large teams and four lowest-seeded conference champions compete for spots in the traditional 64-team bracket. Baker indicated that the current formula has flaws and said it would be beneficial to give more opportunities to worthy teams.

"If you have a tournament that's got 64 or 68 teams in it, you're going to have a bunch of teams that are probably among what most people would consider to be the best 68 or 70 teams in the country that aren't going to make the tournament, period," Baker said. "The point behind going from 68 to 72 or 76 is to basically give some of those

schools that were probably among the 72, 76, 68, 64 best teams in the country a way into the tournament." Baker cited a competitive Indiana State team falling short of the tournament as an example. Indiana State went on to play Seton Hall in the 2024 NIT title game, which he referred to as one of the best games that spring.

"There was a little bit that was brought forth and the consensus among the coaches, even though it was very little, would be in favor of that," he said. "I don't know if you could make it where it was totally equitable all the way across the board for everybody. □